

**§ 3505.66 If approved, when is my extension effective?**

Your permit extension will become effective on the date we approve it, or on the expiration date of the original permit, if this date is later.

**§ 3505.70 May I relinquish my prospecting permit?**

Yes. You may relinquish the entire prospecting permit or any legal subdivision of it. A partial relinquishment must clearly describe the exact acreage you want to relinquish. BLM will not accept a relinquishment if you are not in compliance with the requirements of your permit. Once we accept the request, your relinquishment is effective as of the date you filed it with BLM. We will then note the relinquishment on the land status records. We may then open the lands to any new applications. If you relinquish part or all of your permit, you lose any right to any preference right lease to the lands covered by the relinquishment.

**§ 3505.75 What happens if I fail to pay the rental?**

Your prospecting permit will automatically terminate if you do not pay the rental before the anniversary date of the permit. We will note your permit termination on the official status records.

**§ 3505.80 What happens when my permit expires?**

Your permit will expire at the end of its initial or extended term, as applicable, without notice. BLM may open the lands to new applications 60 days after your permit expires. However, if you timely filed for an extension under § 3505.64 of this part, the 60 day period would begin to run on the date BLM denies your extension request. If you timely filed for a preference right lease under § 3507.15 of this part, the 60 day period only would begin to run on the date BLM denies your lease application.

**§ 3505.85 May BLM cancel my prospecting permit for reasons other than failure to pay rental?**

Yes.

(a) We may cancel your permit if you do not comply with the Mineral Leas-

ing Act, any of the other acts applicable to your specific permit, these regulations, or any of the permit terms or stipulations. We will give you 30 days notice, within which you must correct your default. If your default continues, BLM may cancel your permit.

(b) If we waive one cause for cancellation, we may still cancel your permit for another cause, or for the same cause occurring at another time. Unless you file an appeal, we will note your permit cancellation on the land status records. BLM may use your bond to reclaim the land or correct other deficiencies if we cancel your permit.

**Subpart 3506—Exploration Licenses**

GENERAL INFORMATION

**§ 3506.10 What is an exploration license?**

An exploration license allows you to explore known, unleased mineral deposits to obtain geologic, environmental and other pertinent data concerning such deposits.

APPLYING FOR AND OBTAINING EXPLORATION LICENSES

**§ 3506.11 What must I do to obtain an exploration license?**

(a) To apply, submit an exploration plan as described at § 3505.45 of this part, along with your request for an exploration license. No specific form is required. When BLM approves the exploration plan, we will attach the approved plan to, and make it a part of, the license. You must also publish a BLM-approved notice of exploration, inviting others to participate in exploration under the license on a pro-rata cost-sharing basis.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this subpart, BLM will process your exploration license application in accordance with the regulations at part 2920 of this chapter.

**§ 3506.12 Who prepares and publishes the notice of exploration?**

BLM will prepare a notice of exploration using your information and post the notice and your exploration plan in the BLM office for 30 days. You must

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publish the notice of exploration once a week for three consecutive weeks in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the area in which the lands are located.

### § 3506.13 What information must I provide to BLM to include in the notice of exploration?

You must include:

- (a) Your name and address;
- (b) A description of the lands;
- (c) The address of the BLM office where your exploration plan will be available for inspection; and
- (d) An invitation to the public to participate in the exploration under the license.

### § 3506.14 May others participate in the exploration program?

(a) If any person wants to participate in the exploration program, you and BLM must receive written notice from that person within 30 days after the later of the final newspaper publication or the end of the BLM 30-day posting period.

(b) A person who wants to participate in the exploration program must state in their notice:

- (1) They are willing to share in the cost of the exploration on a pro-rata basis; and
- (2) Any modifications to the exploration program that BLM should consider.

[64 FR 53536, Oct. 1, 1999; 65 FR 11476, Mar. 3, 2000]

### § 3506.15 What will BLM do in response to my exploration license application?

(a) BLM will determine whether to issue the exploration license. If we decide to issue the license, we will name the participants and the acreage covered. We also will establish hole spacing requirements and include any stipulations needed to protect the environment.

(b) If there are inconsistencies between proposed exploration plans, the approved license will resolve them.

## TERMS; MODIFICATIONS

### § 3506.20 After my license is issued, may I modify my license or exploration plan?

BLM may approve modifications of your exploration plan upon your request. We may also permit you to remove lands from your exploration license at any time. However, once we issue your exploration license, you may not add lands to the area of your exploration license.

### § 3506.25 Once I have a license, what are my responsibilities?

You must share with BLM all data you obtain during exploration. We will consider the data confidential and will not make the data public until either:

- (a) The areas involved are leased; or
- (b) BLM determines that it must release the data in response to a FOIA request.

## Subpart 3507—Preference Right Lease Applications

### § 3507.11 What must I do to obtain a preference right lease?

To obtain a preference right lease, you must have a prospecting permit for the area you want to lease and meet the following conditions and any other conditions established in this subpart:

(a) *All leasable minerals except asphalt.* You must demonstrate that you have discovered a valuable deposit within the period covered by your prospecting permit. However, paragraphs (b) and (d) of this section provide some limitations.

(b) *Sodium, potassium, and sulphur.* In addition to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section, BLM must determine that the lands are chiefly valuable for the subject minerals.

(c) *Asphalt.* You may not obtain a preference right lease for asphalt. However, you may obtain a competitive lease or a fringe acreage lease under subpart 3508 or 3510 of this part.

(d) *Permits issued under the authority of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946.* Prospecting permits for minerals BLM administers under the authority of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946 do not entitle you to a preference right lease. We may grant you a noncompetitive